

SFE Examiner AUG 20 1971
Few Inconsistencies

Sirhan Trial Had Facts - Younger

SACRAMENTO (AP) — Attorney General Evans I. Younger has acknowledged there were "minor inconsistencies" in the trial of Sirhan Bishara Sirhan for the murder of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy but he said "I am not disturbed" by them.

Younger, the Los Angeles County prosecutor at the time of Sirhan's trial there, issued a memo to editors yesterday in which he said, "We took all reasonable means to insure that the true story was developed and perpetuated."

"It was inevitable that the conspiracy theory would be suggested — that makes a better story," he said.

Younger's two-page memo did not specifically say he rejects the idea that someone else conspired with Sirhan to kill the senator on the night of his victory in the 1968 California presidential primary election.

70 Interviewed

It said more than 70 persons were interviewed who saw Sirhan at the Ambassa-

dor Hotel, where Kennedy was shot, the night of the assassination.

Younger was out of state and could not be reached for comment on the memo his office said.

This week, the Los Angeles County Grand Jury began an investigation into whether evidence in the trial — including the alleged murder weapon and bullet — had been tampered with after the trial.

District Attorney Joseph Busch Jr., who is Younger's successor, asked for the investigation, saying he was "terribly concerned" over "evidence that exhibits have been directly handled by numerous persons."

Frequent Question

Younger in his memo said he frequently has been asked whether there weren't inconsistencies in the testimony at the Sirhan trial.

"My answer: yes, definitely there were. When 65 witnesses testify concerning any incident, I am not disturbed concerning minor inconsistencies in the testimony."

"I would be concerned if all 65 witnesses testified in precisely the same manner," he said.

He added, "Inconsistencies of a minor nature lend credence to the testimony of witnesses."

Younger added the investigation "was one of the most complete, if not the most complete, criminal investigations ever conducted by a law enforcement agency in the United States."

He said more than 4000 persons were interviewed. Sirhan, sentenced to death, is on death row at San Quentin while his case is being appealed.